

Appendix 7

November 14, 2001**CONTACT: Will Wawrzyn, DNR Fisheries Biologist, 414-263-8699****Mike Sweet, USFWS, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, 612-713-5129****Public input wanted on Schweitzer Dam removal project**

MILWAUKEE – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are seeking public comment on the proposed Schweitzer Dam removal and restoration project, located on Cedar Creek in Washington County. The Service and the DNR will seek public input during a 30-day comment period that will run November 14 through December 17, 2001.

The project is expected to cost about \$90,000 and would be paid in part with federal Sport Fish Restoration funds. DNR staff developed a plan for removing the dam structure and restoring the stream and its natural floodplain corridor. The dam, located on Lily Road one mile west of Jackson and just north of Hwy. 60, was built in 1946 by A. Schweitzer and Joe Merkel, possibly for the purpose of raising fish in the 10-acre pond formed by the dam. There is no record that fish were raised here and the dam has never served any purpose other than forming the shallow pond. Over the years, water quality and fish habitat suffered as the pond was filled with sediment and overtaken by carp and thick mats of Eurasian milfoil and algae.

Removing the dam and restoring the stream will improve the quality of water and habitat for fish and wildlife species and will complement on-going resource conservation efforts in the Cedar Creek watershed. Approximately 10-acres of land which include the dam and lands formerly flooded by the impoundment, and 8-acres of the adjoining upland property is owned by the state. Following removal of the dam and restoration of the former impoundment, the area will be open to the public for passive recreational uses such as hiking, fishing and wildlife observation. No hard surface improvements are proposed to be included such as roads, paved trails and parking areas.

In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the DNR is gathering information and public comment on the proposed dam removal and improvements prior to drafting an Environmental Assessment (EA). The draft EA, when completed, will be available for public review and comment. Each agency will make independent decisions on the EA in accordance with their respective environmental regulations.

Information on the proposed Schweitzer Dam project can be obtained from Will Wawrzyn, DNR Southeast Region Headquarters, 2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Milwaukee, WI 53212, telephone number (414) 263-8699, e-mail: wawrzw@dnr.state.wi.us. Comments on the proposal are welcome and may be submitted by telephone, letter or e-mail. All comments must be received by Mr. Wawrzyn no later than December 17, 2001.